

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 OPIC-03 OMB-01

TRSE-00 SAM-01 IO-10 IGA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 CEA-01 COME-00 FRB-03 CIEP-01 STR-04

LAB-04 SIL-01 /105 W

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R 171357Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5699

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE THE HAGUE 1953

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, PO, MZ, PU, AO, NL

SUBJECT: DUTCH AID TO PORTUGAL

1. FOREIGN MINISTER VAN STOEL ANNOUNCED AT PRESS
CONFERENCE APRIL 15 THAT HOLLAND WOULD BE FIRST
EUROPEAN COUNTRY TO PROVIDE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO
PORTUGAL. IN EFFORT TO MAKE SOME GESTURE OF SUPPORT
FOR PORTUGAL, EVEN IF ONLY A SMALL ONE, FOREIGN
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MINISTER COMMENTED THAT "THE DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN
PORTUGAL HAVE NOT YET LOST COURAGE AND WE HAVE TO CONTINUE
SHOWING OUR SLIDARITY WITH THEM".

2. BOTH ANNOUNCEMENT BY VAN DER STOEL AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE ITSELF FALL TO LARGE EXTENT INTO CATEGORY OF GESTURES. ANNOUNCEMENT APPEARS TO BE AN ATTEMPT TO GAIN CREDIT FOR NETHERLANDS TWICE FOR SINGLE PACKAGE, THERE HAVING BEEN EARLIER DECLARATION OF IDENTICAL ASSISTANCE MADE BY DEVELOPMENT MINISTER PRONK (HAGUE 691). AID ITSELF, AS REFTEL REPORTED, IS NOT DIRECT TO PORTUGAL BUT RATHER TO MOZAMBIQUE AND GUINEA-BISSAU. PRONK MADE EXCEPTION TO RULE UNDER WHICH ALL DUTCH FOREIGN AID MUST BE SPENT EITHER IN NETHERLANDS, IN COUNTRY RECEIVING AID, OR IN OTHER LDC'S. UNDER EXCEPTION, MOZAMBIQUE AND GUINEA-BISSAU MAY ALSO SPEND AID IN PORTUGAL. THIS INDIRECT METHOD IS INDICATIVE OF PROBLEMS GON HAS HAD IN COMING UP WITH ASSISTANCE FOR A COUNTRY THAT DOES NOT MEET DEVELOPING COUNTRY CRITERIA. DUTCH HOPE SAME SYSTEM MAY BE APPLIED LATER TO AID TO ANGOLA. IN ADDITION TO THIS FORM OF "AID", FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT GON WOULD BE ASSISTING GOP ON RESETTLEMENT OF RETURNING PORTUGUESE FROM AFRICA AND FROM EUROPEAN COUNTRIES (GUEST WORKERS). PLANNING ON LATTER PROGRAM IS NOT ADVANCED, BUT WE GATHER GON CONSIDERING PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO AREAS WHICH HAVE EXPERIENCED GREATEST OUTWARD MIGRATION DUE TO LACK OF EMPLOYMENT POSSIBILITIES.

3. PORTUGUESE DESK OFFICER IN MFA HAS TOLD US THAT GON HAS ALREADY HELD TALKS WITH GOVERNMENTS OF GUINEA-BISSAU AND MOZAMBIQUE ABOUT CHANNELING AID VIA PORTUGAL. AMOUNT OF AID WILL BE \$4 MILLION FOR GUINEA-BISSAU. GOGB HAS REACTED FAVORABLY TO IDEA. IN MOZAMBIQUE, WHERE DUTCH WILL BE PROVIDING 15 MILLION GUILDERS (U.S. \$6 MILLION) IN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, GOVERNMENT HAS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE, BUT WAS CONCERNED THAT PORTUGAL WOULD TRY REDUCE ITS OWN ASSISTANCE BY LIKE AMOUNT. DUTCH PLAN MAKE SAME APPROACH WITH ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT AFTER NOVEMBER INDEPENDENCE.

4. FOREIGN MINISTER REITERATED DURING APRIL 15 PRESS CONFERENCE HIS PREFERENCE FOR EEC PLAYING ACTIVE AID ROLE IN PORTUGAL. MFA OFFICIAL TELLS US THAT GON STILL HOPES EEC WILL FIND WAY TO CHANNEL AID THROUGH EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK. IF THAT PROVES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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IMPOSSIBLE, GON WILL TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT SITUATION WITH VIEW TO PROVIDING LIMITED AMOUNT OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL. MFA, WHILE NOT SATISFIED WITH LIMITED ASSISTANCE IT ABLE PROVIDE AT THIS TIME, FEELS GESTURE OF SUPPORT BY EUROPEANS TO SUPPLEMENT CONCRETE ASSISTANCE BEING PROVIDED BY U.S. DESPERATELY NEEDED. GOULD

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Message Attributes

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To: STATE INFO LISBON
BONN
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COPENHAGEN
DUBLIN
LONDON

LUXEMBOURG
PARIS
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LUANDA
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